

FICA Meeting Notes

November 17, 2008

Attendees:

CA: Barb VanWicklin, Tim Cox, Cindy Crandall

Erie 1/WNYRIC: Carol Troskosky, Rosanne Huffcut, Michelle Okal, Barb Mocarski, Carol Tauriello

Erie 2: Theresa Gray

1. BOCES Sharing

- Distance Education – the traditional DL service at Erie 1 continues to have little participation in that most courses can be handled by the district. Erie 2 has a strong program because of the needs of small, rural schools. ON does not have any DL classes, but is going strong with virtual field trips. CA does around 15 classes, including college credit, AP and traditional HS classes. By the end of the year, traditional DL runs between 80 and 100 classes each year.
- Online Learning - In CA online learning is going strong there are many classes for students that would otherwise be out of reach. They are providing many classes through Florida Virtual, they dropped Apex Learning. ON is beginning to talk about Online Learning especially for credit recovery.
- Virtual Fieldtrips – becoming more and more popular in all the regions.
- Growth Model – we are still waiting for approval which is expected by the end of the month from the DOE. The regional BOCES will then decide what SD is needed and how to provide that to districts.
- Western New York Data Interest Group (WNYDIG) – The group has been defunct for a year or so and recently there has been some renewed interest. A survey was developed to determine that interest and the group discussed how to proceed. All that answered the survey want WNYDIG to continue and 70% want formal meetings 3 – 4 times per year. Since part of the issue is with facilitation of the meetings, it was decided by FICA that the local BOCES would rotate facilitation and that meetings would be held after DATAG meetings so that state data initiatives could be discussed in a timely manner. This would assist districts that do not attend DATAG. The meetings will be held at Erie 1 as a central location, WNYRIC Data Warehouse and BOCES Data Warehouse liaisons would be present to assist with the discussion around data reports from the warehouse.

2. Regional Collaborations

- HSNF update – Tim spoke with Dr. Olczak and an e-mail was sent to all DSSs over concerns about the budget and possible lack of participation at the conference. Since then, we have backed out of the contract with Holiday Valley and the group will meet in December to discuss a modified plan - perhaps one day workshop instead of the 3 day conference will be held.
- Digital Wave update – RFPs were sent out and FICA was asked to encourage people to present. RFPs are due back on Dec. 15th. Michelle Okal has 3 so far. The date of the event is March 27th.

3. WNYRIC Update

- Services Update – Demonstrations of new services were held in each BOCES region during October. 110 people attended. The new DW trend reports are getting a lot of good response from the districts. Additional reports will be released soon. The RFP for an electronic portfolio system was not awarded. The evaluation team comprised of district and WNYRIC staff determined that the products did not meet their specifications. An RFP will be released at a later time.